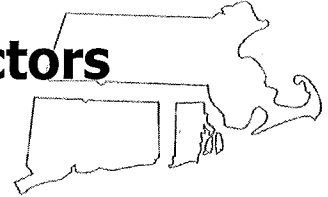




## **Independent Electrical Contractors of New England, Inc.**



**To: Environment Committee**

**From: Lisa Stevens, Executive Director**

**Date: March 7, 2011**

**Re: HB-6505 – AAC STREAM FLOW REGULATIONS - OPPOSE**

The Independent Electrical Contractors of New England (IEC-NE) **opposes HB-6505** which extends the current proposed stream flow regulations to groundwater supplies.

As drafted, DEP's proposed stream flow regulations will hurt the construction industry by unnecessarily limiting economic growth in various regions across the state. The uncertainty regarding whether or not the regulations will be implemented as currently drafted is creating some anxiety with members, particularly in those towns that may face construction moratoriums. We therefore are very concerned that legislation is under consideration that would already expand the proposed regulations without addressing the significant concerns that have been raised by many in the trades.

By unfairly mandating that more water be released to streams and rivers in this state without any consideration of how these releases will affect water supplies needed to operate businesses, build and renovate new homes, and provide drinking water for residents, these regulations will hurt Connecticut's economy and overall quality of life.

The proposed regulations raise too many questions regarding whether there will be moratoriums on construction in some areas and whether we will face lengthy water use restrictions when water supplies run low because so much has been released into our rivers and streams. Eliminating groundwater from the regulations was a positive step that lessened concerns with the regulations. This bill puts groundwater back in without consideration of how communities that rely on groundwater supplies will cope.

Connecticut has lost more than 100,000 jobs since March 2008 and is expected to lose additional jobs in 2010. The state is also facing a multi-billion dollar deficit and must take immediate steps to reduce the size of government. Moving forward with new, overreaching regulations that may bring construction to a standstill in some communities is certainly not the way to address the state's economic woes or budget crisis.

**We therefore urge rejection of HB-6505.**

*The Independent Electrical Contractors of New England is the premier trade association representing Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island independent electrical contractors aggressively working with the industry to establish a free environment for merit shop -- a philosophy that promotes the concept of free enterprise, open competition and economic opportunity for all.*

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